

## Man, Society and Religion

In terms of Buddhist thinking these concepts like man, society and religion have to be coeval in their genesis. Being non-creationist in their thinking, Buddhists conceive the birth of the human to be in a domestic setting, with the union of a mother and a father [*mātā-pettika-sambhavo*]. As things are today, without stretching our imagination too far, even for a test-tube baby, we have to beg the situation of a surrogate mother. Buddhists would therefore, on their sound ethical basis, unquestionably rule out the acceptance of unmarried mothers and single-parent homes within their religious premises. For this reason and this reason alone, it has to be granted by men and women with any degree of sanity and sobriety in their heads that the men and women on whom the final responsibility for the production of **unwanted children** would devolve, have to culture in their own lives discipline and restraint in sexual behavior. We would consider this to be a primary discipline which must come to man via his religious grooming for the healthy growth of a cultured human society.

This topic of unwanted children needs to get top priority today in the hands sociologists in any part of the world in view of the scandalous prevalence of abortion as a convenient and comfortable means of getting rid of unwanted children generated by a wide range of women of diverse grades and ages coming from unimaginable places and positions. This social malaise knows no restrictions of religion, race or social identities. It is no secret that age wise they have now dropped well below the teen-agers, reaching with ease those even of eleven and twelve, both in the east and the west. Everybody knows jolly well that such births are neither test-tube babies nor the products or by-products of in-vitro-fertilization. Some nuts and bolts are loose somewhere, definitely. That is why we touched above on concepts of discipline and responsibility in the human community.

While we talk with love and sympathy to those who need to be held

responsible for the production of pitifully helpless unwanted children, both the state and the public also need to be alerted about the hawks who step in from anywhere and everywhere to fish in troubled waters. And they generously claim to be assisting in family planning in getting rid of such children who come on the scene in consequence of unbridled behavior of men and women in their reckless sexual adventures.

What sense does this make? Should the men in any civilized country who are trained in the noble medical profession be allowed to creep into this scene to make a lucrative trade of abortion where quick money is earned through this diabolic behavior? We know for certain that the whole civilized world is fighting against this crime. Enraged civilians in many parts of the world are known to eliminate such men from their societies. A few acceptable exceptions are made in instances where reliable medical advice requires the termination of a pregnancy in the interests of the mother. This belongs to the delicate area of bio-ethics, we concede.

While we now speak of responsibility in the hands of the human community. More than a decade ago, while we were resident in the U.S.A. for a short period of time, we discovered to our great delight that American educationists were revising, with very great wisdom we would say, world-wide educational policies and replacing the old **3 R's** of Reading, Writing and Rithmetic of the school curriculum with vibrantly new concepts of **Respect, Responsibility** and **Readiness to learn**. Value inculcation, they felt, should be the basis of education. With their very advanced thinking, they seriously felt the world need today to introduce, or more precisely restore to the world, its sense of **responsibility** which they saw was disastrously slipping off its hands, at very top global levels. Mature human thinking needs to arrest, with awareness and without delay, what is seen breaking up or slipping off. The humans need to be immediately alerted about it. At the moment, we would unhesitatingly say, it is n even a minute too early.

But the world today, unfortunately is more interested in its technical

advancement, and lets the humans nod all the while and gets machines do all the correction. In the world of aviation, they built a super-zonic jet, the Anglo-French Concorde. They also saw its disastrous end. In the world of motor car engineering, this is what they do with their air bags, automatic gears etc. Elsewhere, no fuss no frost refrigerators and ever so perfect washing machines, etc. They go ahead with their research, making men and women ever so lazy as they were never before in their lives, and turning them heedless of human values in their ceaseless quest for world dominance as this block or that in this or that part of the world.

They hesitate not to brutally assassinate one group of humans in one distinct area of territory on the flimsy excuse of a difference of opinion or judgement, or on a mere fabricated charge which in the end disappears into thin air. This, more or less self-invested authority to arbitrate over the affairs of others is becoming a menacing threat to the less armed and less mobilized minority groups all over the world. On the world scene today, it is as though it were profitable for the lions and the tigers to join hands together to eat up the sheep and the goats.